

Remarks:

Claims 18-36 and 41-46 remain for consideration in this application with claims 18, 30 and 41 being in independent format. In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicant provisionally elects Group LXXI which represents claims 30-36 with respect to SEQ ID NO. 13, and traverses the restriction requirement between Groups XVIII-CIV and thereby also elects Groups XVIII-CIV which represents claims 18-36 for peptides having SEQ ID NOS 4-47. Claims 1-17 and 37-40 have been canceled but applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications directed toward the subject matter of these claims.

Each of the Groups XVIII through CIV relate to methods of decreasing cell layer resistivity and altering water flux across an epithelial cell utilizing peptides and should be construed and examined as a single group having several species therein. The species comprise SEQ ID NOS 4-47. Because each of these species provides the same function (thereby making them related under a genus) and all are related as being derived from SEQ ID NO. 1 (M2GLYR), they should be examined as a single group with respect to the species elected. The shared function is the ability to decrease cell resistivity and thereby alter water flux across an epithelial cell. The alteration of water flux is an inherent property when the resistance of the cell is decreased. If a claim, generic to all species, is found to be allowable, then the allowability should extend to all species encompassed by the generic claim. Presently, claims 18, 36 and new claim 41 are generic to all species.


Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES**

Claims 1-17 and 37-40 have been canceled.

18. (Amended) A method of decreasing resistivity of a cell layer comprising the step of contacting said cell layer with a peptide, said peptide being a derivative of SEQ ID No. 1[, and said derivative including at least one portion which is pallindromic to a portion of SEQ ID No. 1].

20. (Amended) The method of claim 46 [18], said pallindromic portion comprising at least seven amino acid residues.

Claims 41-46 have been newly added.